

November has been as busy as ever for BOA and our students.

The new half term kicked off with two weeks of the Cavern Club showcase which featured all the Music students from both Years 12 and 13. The concept, which was Mr Lewis', was that the showcase would feature songs from artists that had performed at the Cavern Club in its heyday. So the students were put into bands to work on songs by The Kinks, The Who, The Rolling Stones and many more. The performances were fabulous and a really high standard. The students from Technical Theatre Arts also worked very hard on this putting together the staging and the seating for the audience to make it feel like the real Cavern Club. They also put together video clips of the original bands either performing at the Cavern Club or around the time, which were played between the acts.

On Saturday 19th November three Year 13 students; Natasha Meusz, Danielle Robinson and Georgia Saunders, accompanied by Miss Liley and Mr Judd, performed at St Andrew's Stadium, the home of Birmingham City Football Club. They performed in the family area before the game which was between Birmingham and Bristol Rovers. They performed to a huge amount of people, many of whom stopped to listen, even though it was very cold. They received many positive comments from those who had heard them. They might be asked back again as good-luck mascots as Birmingham won 1-0!

Five students from Music and Music Technology took part in the Live Lounge which was Broadcast's showcase before half term. The students performed live not only in front of an audience, across three different stages but it was also broadcast live on Facebook. The students performed covers and some of their own tracks and were interviewed live on air as well.

The Dance department went on a trip to watch The Nutcracker. 'Industria' opened The Skills Show at the NEC and performed over the three day event to an overwhelming response. All Post-16 Dance students had a workshop with the Balletboyz on November 8th.

On 4th November, Year 10 Acting pathway students performed at the Shakespeare schools Festival. Hosted by the Old Rep our production of Richard III captured the audiences' imagination with its multi headed monster which broke the demented Duke of Gloucester, later King Richard III, into five distinct personalities. This allowed five of the actors a share of this brilliant role. The company that surrounded them made the world of the play an eerie and dangerous place, and with beheadings stage left, stage

right and stage centre, they were not wrong! Well done to the whole company who were praised for truly showing the power of an ensemble. A great start to some BOA Actors careers.

We also wish good luck too the Year 11 acting pathway who are about to crease us up with laughter in One Man, Two Guvnors. Their talent and hard work will be there for all to see and giggle at from Tues 6th December. They are supported by a small band, formed of BOA Music students.

Year 11 Geography fieldwork visit to the Peak District National Park took place on 9th November. 52 students and 4 staff went to a snow covered Peak District for primary data collection in the chocolate box village of Castleton. Despite facing cold temperatures all students remained resilient to ensure they collected the necessary data to aid their controlled assessments.



The weather conditions during the Geography field trip to The Peak District National Park.

Our Digital Arts and Gaming students are busy working with new equipment and also making a game for 'The Wind in the Willows'. I will include more on this in my December blog.

Year 13 students from Musical Theatre performed their first musical of this academic year. 'Sweeney Todd' played to a full house for four nights from Monday 28 November in the BOA Theatre. On first glance this tale appears to be a macabre one, fuelled by a barber's revenge, but, unsurprisingly, with great tragedy there was fantastic comedy to be found and a great deal of charm portrayed by the performers. 'Sweeney Todd' was an ideal choice for our strong year 13 cohort and they successfully connected with, and brought to life, the gritty characters and complex relationships. The students performed with buckets of charm and completely sunk their teeth into the themes....and Mrs Lovett's pies! The commitment to the rehearsal process has been unfaltering and the quality of the

final production proves testament to their maturity and focus shown throughout the rehearsal period. Students coped admirably with Sondheim's challenging harmonies and complex rhythms and it was clear to the see and hear the progress that students have made since commencing their studies in Musical Theatre.

Working closely with the Technical Theatre Arts department ensured that every aspect of design reflected the creative teams vision and we must say a huge 'thank you' to the students who designed and built the set, costume and lighting. The atmosphere was electric and they certainly 'raised the roof'! The year 13s now go straight into rehearsals for their Variety production on 13th and 14th December at the BOA Theatre.



Year 13 Musical Theatre students performing 'Sweeney Todd'.

Finally, our Christmas show 'The Wind in the Willows' opened on Monday 21st November and runs until 31st December. Tickets are available from: <http://www.boa-academy.co.uk/events-calendar.php?event=136>

Well done to all BOA students who have committed to the 60 show run. Join us, if you can, on this journey along the riverbank.

